



Digital Commons@

Loyola Marymount University
LMU Loyola Law School

Spiritual Essays

Center for Ignatian Spirituality

2007

"Somebody"

Fr. Randy Roche

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/spiritualessays>



Part of the [Catholic Studies Commons](#), and the [Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons](#)

This Essay is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Ignatian Spirituality at Digital Commons @ Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spiritual Essays by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@lmu.edu.

"Somebody"

Dean Martin was one of those who sang "You're nobody 'till somebody loves you." The song might be romantic in the singing; the words by themselves convey meaning for a wide range of human realities.

Infants can be given names at birth, but if they are not cared for emotionally as well as physically, they will die, they will not become "somebody." They need some human touch conveying affection as well as food and clothing. As children, we grew not only in size, but in capacity to think, judge, and act independently. We did this not as acorns that developed into oak trees when provided with water and sunlight, but as human persons who were treated with respect, encouraged, challenged, and educated by many people who wanted us to succeed in life. They loved us in deeds; they gave to us of their time, talent, and experience; they manifested various levels of affection for us. Some loved us in ways we did not then, and perhaps never will, understand or appreciate.

Not everyone loved us, and those who did were not always gentle in putting their concern for us into words and deeds. We received some doses of "tough love" along the way, and we also met with some people who were jealous, negative, and not at all helpful or supportive. But because we were loved to some extent, we became capable of dealing with adversity from without, and with struggles inside our minds and hearts. We do not have to be loved by everyone. Once we know and accept that we are loved, we become "somebody:" aware of our value and place in the world, and conscious of our power to make choices about who we will trust in their interactions with us. We make the judgments about what are appropriate ways to address us and act towards us and what expressions do not match the truth we have come to know about ourselves.

At the level of existence, we really are nobody until God loves us. We have no body in which to be ourselves unless God wants us to exist. God's desire for each of us is to be a unique person – never to be repeated in eternity – and arises from pure creative love. Most of us, when we are creative, contribute something of ourselves in the process, thereby putting a bit of love into action. God is infinitely creative, and every act of creativity, including the results we view in a mirror, is an embodiment of God's infinite love.

If we are willing to look at ourselves as "somebody," loved by God, we are in position to make positive contributions to the world about us.

When we take care of others, and the world we live in, we express our love for God. God cannot be loved by "nobodies." In becoming "somebody" each of us grows in capacity to love God. We participate in the logic of love when we accept who we are, children of God. This is not self-exaltation, but humility. We do not deserve or earn God's love by anything we do. God loves us first, enabling each of us to become "somebody."

Being loved ourselves, we have the capability and the responsibility to love some "nobody" so that he or she can become "somebody." In so doing, we keep the love flowing and expanding over the face of the earth. Whenever and wherever it is accepted, love brings forth love.